

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-14

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C O N F I D E N T I A L NASSAU 0484

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: MARR MILI US BF
SUBJ: FACILITIES: ADDERLEY'S LETTER OF MARCH 6, 1978

REF: NASSAU 0469

1. FOLLOWING ARE EMBASSY'S COMMENTS ON LETTER:
PARA 2: EMBASSY AND DEPT HAVE REITERATED TO GCOB
AND SPECIFICALLY TO ADDERLEY OUR INABILITY TO PRE-DATE
ANY FACILITIES AGREEMENT WHICH MIGHT BE REACHED TO
JULY 1973. FOR HIM TO SAY THAT "...IT WAS THE UNEQUIVOCAL
PROPOSAL" OF THE USG "...FROM 1973 TO 1977 THAT ANY
AGREEMENT ENTERED INTO BETWEEN OUR RESPECTIVE GOVERN-
MENTS WOULD BE FOR A PERIOD OF FIFTEEN YEARS EXPIRING
ON JULY 10, 1988" IS AT WORST A SHEER FABRICATION OR
AT THE LEAST A PRIME EXAMPLE OF WISHFUL THINKING. WE
URGE THE DEPT TO RESPOND TO THE ASSERTION WITH AN
"UNEQUIVOCAL" REJECTION, STATING IN DETAIL WHAT OUR
POSITION IS (AND ALWAYS HAS BEEN) AND REITERATING OUR
INABILITY TO ENTERTAIN ANY PROPOSALS FOR RETROACTIVE
PAYMENT.

PARA 3: IT IS TRUE THAT VARIOUS GCOB OFFICIALS,
INCLUDING ADDERLEY, HAVE EXPRESSED VAGUE DISSATISFACTION
WITH OUR OFFER MADE IN DEC 1975 AND HAVE ADVANCED EQUALLY
VAGUE PROPOSALS CONCERNING THE DESIRABILITY OF "ECONOMIC
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ASSISTANCE" -- IN ADDITION TO RENTAL PAYMENTS -- TO
ARRIVE AT AN ACCEPTABLE QUID. WHAT IS NOT TRUE IS THAT
THE GCOB HAS RESPONDED WITH ANY DEGREE OF SPECIFICITY.
IN OUR RESPONSE WE SHOULD EMPHASIZE THAT IN ORDER TO
MOVE FORWARD WITH THE NEGOTIATIONS WE WILL NEED TO HAVE
A BETTER UNDERSTANDING OF THEIR VIEWS ON OUR 1975 OFFER
AND THAT ONLY THEN CAN A MEANINGFUL DIALOGUE BE

ESTABLISHED. WITHOUT IT, WE WILL CONTINUE TO SKIRT THE MAIN ISSUES WHICH MAY OR MAY NOT BE DIVIDING US AND WE VERY MUCH HOPE THAT THEY CAN PROVIDE US A MORE COMPREHENSIVE AND DETAILED RESPONSE.

PARA 4: WE SHOULD POINT OUT THAT WHILE IT WAS USEFUL TO COMMENCE AN EXCHANGE OF VIEWS ON THE SPECIFICS OF OPERATING RIGHTS, STATUS OF FORCES, FACILITIES AND LEASE AGREEMENTS" WE ARE STILL AWAITING A CLEARER INDICATION OF THEIR VIEWS ON THE MORE SUBSTANTIVE MATTERS RAISED IN PARA 3.

PARA 6, 7, AND 8: IT IS APPARENT THAT ADDERLEY'S COMMENTS "THAT FURTHER DISCUSSIONS TAKE PLACE ON A BILATERAL BASIS BETWEEN THE U.S. AMBASSADOR AND THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS" DERIVE FROM A CONVERSATION AND POSSIBLY AN AIDE MEMOIRE DELIVERED AT A MEETING BETWEEN HIM AND THEN AMB. SPIERS HELD ON SEPT 14, 1973. NASSAU'S 1314 OF THAT DATE STATES THAT AMBASSADOR SPIERS "SAID THAT THE US PREFERRED DISCUSSIONS THIS SUBJECT (I.E. BASE TALKS) TAKE PLACE ON BILATERAL BASIS BETWEEN AMBASSADOR AND MINEXTAFF. AMB. INDICATED IT WAS REASONABLE TO EXPECT THAT PARTICIPATION OF EXPERTS MIGHT BE NEEDED AT SOME POINTS, BUT THAT SUCH EXPERT DISCUSSIONS WOULD TAKE PLACE WITHIN UMBRELLA FRAMEWORK OF AMB-MINEXTAFF, WITH ISSUES REFERRED TO THIS LEVEL FOR DISCUSSIONS AND RESOLUTION AS NECESSARY." DEP ASST SEC SHELTON IN HER MEETING WITH ADDERLEY MARCH 6 HAS CONFIDENTIAL

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ALREADY EXPLAINED IN SOME LENGTH RATIONAL FOR ALTERED PROCEDURES OF CONDUCTING NEGOTIATIONS SUCH AS THESE. IT WOULD NEVERTHELESS BE USEFUL TO REPEAT REASONS IN OUR RESPONSE, POINTING OUT THAT ALMOST FOUR AND ONE-HALF YEARS HAVE ELAPSED SINCE THE MODUS OPERANDI REFERRED TO BY ADDERLEY WAS AGREED UPON. IN ADDITION WE SHOULD EXPLICITLY MAKE IT CLEAR THAT WHILE THE AMB IS READY AND WILLING TO REVIEW THESE OR ANY OTHER MATTERS, THE MINISTER MIGHT WISH TO RAISE, HE IS NEVERTHELESS NOT EMPOWERED SPECIFICALLY TO NEGOTIATE A FACILITIES AGREEMENT WITH GCOB.

2. EMBASSY STRONGLY FEELS THAT LETTER DESERVES AND IN FACT DEMANDS A PROMPT, POINT BY POINT RESPONSE, WHICH SHOULD BE CANDID WITHOUT APPEARING CONTENTIOUS. IN OUR VIEW THE FAILURE TO RESPOND WOULD FURTHER COMPLICATE OUR DISCUSSIONS WITH ADDERLEY AND HE COULD AND QUITE CONCEIVABLY WOULD USE OUR SILENCE AS A TACIT AGREEMENT TO OUR DISADVANTAGE.
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